

Worksession

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	February 20, 2007
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community & Government Liaison
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager

Discussion Item	Legislative Report
Background	The City Council and staff advocate on behalf of the City of Takoma Park before the State Legislature each year. Staff keeps track of legislation that may affect Takoma Park. Attached is a list of bills and hearing dates that may be of interest to the City Council.
Policy	The City Council works to obtain legislation in the interests of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	Can be substantial, either positively or negatively, depending on the proposed legislation.
Attachments	Legislative Status Report
Recommendation	Receive information, provide direction as needed.
Special Consideration	“Housing Day” in Annapolis is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21. Staff will be in attendance and lobbying for affordable housing legislation.

LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORT
As of February 16, 2007

BILL NUMBER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	CITY POSITION	HEARING DATE
Impact on Municipal Finances				
SB 521 HB 414	Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages	Would allow a municipality to impose this tax on food and beverage sales at a location that is eligible for this tax.	Support as enabling legislation.	HB 414: March 1, 1 pm
HB 716	Local Property Tax - Credit for Individuals at Least 65 Years Old	Would allow a county or municipality to provide a tax credit for people 65+ years old.	Support as enabling legislation.	HB 716: Feb. 22, 1 pm
SB 589 HB 900	First Responders Fund	Establishes fund for grants to counties and municipalities to pay for equipment and personnel for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services entities and local law enforcement agencies.	Support as municipal funding source.	SB 589: March 8, 1 pm HB 900: March 6, 1 pm
HB 523 SB 591	Municipal Corporations - Building Excise Tax	Authorizes municipalities to impose a building excise tax on all types of building construction. Such tax is prohibited if there is an impact fee.	Support as enabling legislation.	HB 523: March 1, 1 pm

HB 875 SB 423	Local Government - Street Lighting Equipment	Authorizes a local government to purchase street lighting equipment from an electric company.	Support.	
SB 130 HB 611	Public Safety - State Aid for Police Protection Fund - Municipal Sworn Officer Allocation	Increases payment to municipality to \$2400 per officer and allows for annual inflation adjustment	Support.	SB 130 - was Feb. 14
Takoma Park Community Learning Center				
SB250 HB 301	Creation of a State Debt - Montgomery County - Takoma Park Community Learning Center	\$3 million bond bill (requiring equal match) for Community Center	Support.	Have heard that hearings will be March 10th.
Housing				
SB 710 HB 784	Affordable Housing - Enabling Authority for Counties and Municipalities	Authorizes counties and municipalities to take specified actions to support, foster, or promote an affordable housing program for persons of low or moderate income.	Support as enabling legislation.	HB 784: March 1, 1 pm
SB 641 HB 96	Condominiums - Conversion of Rental Facilities - Extended Leases - Property Tax Credit	Authorizes five year (rather than three year) extended leases for “designated” households and allow counties and municipalities to provide a tax credit to the owner for extended leases	Support.	SB 641: Feb. 20, 1 pm HB 96 - testified on Feb. 15

SB 635 HB 95	Condominiums - Conversion of Rental Facilities - Notice Requirements	Ensures that residents have a full 180 day period to consider the purchase price of the unit when notified that a building is being converted to condominiums.	Support	SB 635: Feb. 20, 1 pm HB 95 - testified on Feb. 15
Environment				
SB 34 HB 5 HB 676	Electric Industry - Local Aggregation	Allow municipalities to operate as aggregators of electricity on behalf of their residents.	Support.	SB 34 - KP testified on Feb. 13
SB 366 HB 418	Mercury Switch Removal from Vehicles	Requires motor vehicle manufacturers to develop a mercury minimization plan and requires them to pay the costs of removing mercury switches.	Support.	SB 366: Feb. 20, 1 pm HB 418: Feb. 21, 1 pm
Eminent Domain				
HB 257	Property Protection Act of 2007	Constitutional Amendment: Calls for a referendum on the Amendment which would Prohibit acquiring private property via condemnation to carry out projects for urban renewal, community revitalization, attracting or retaining businesses, job creation, or generating tax revenue.	Oppose.	HB 257: March 1, 1 pm

HB 842	Real Property - Eminent Domain - Limitations on Condemnation Authority	Constitutional Amendment similar to HB 257, but clearly allowing the taking of private property to prevent an emergency.	Oppose.	HB 842: March 8, 1pm
Death Penalty				
SB 211 HB 225	Criminal Law - Death Penalty - Repeal	Repeals use of death penalty in Maryland.	Support.	SB 211: Feb. 21, 1 pm HB 225: Feb. 21, 1:30 pm